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LETTER DATED 6 FEBRUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SAUDI ARABIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Pursuant to my letter dated 15 Rajab A.H. 1411 (31 January A.D. 1991) (S/22180) and in accordance with paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 678 (1990) concerning military operations, I have the honour to inform you on behalf of my Government that the military forces of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in co-operation with the forces of the other countries which are co-operating with the Government of Kuwait, have continued their military operations in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 678 (1990) to ensure the full and unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait, the restoration of the legitimate Government of Kuwait, the restoration of international peace and security to the region, and the strengthening of the authority of the United Nations.

The military operations from 13 Rajab A.H. 1411 (28 January A.D. 1991) to 19 Rajab A.H. 1411 (2 February A.D. 1991) were as follows:

Military support

1. The Royal Saudi Air Force carried out 1,164 sorties against military targets in Iraq and Kuwait, while avoiding civilian targets.

2. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia participated in the naval operations. There was a total of 24 naval attacks, while navy aircraft carried out 192 sorties with the purposes of patrolling and naval operations support.

3. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia contributed five reinforced brigades and participated in battles on its borders, one of which was at Al-Khafji, in which the forces of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with participation of units from the fraternal State of Qatar, inflicted heavy losses on the Iraqi aggressor forces.

Human casualties

Human casualties from Al-Khafji battle were as follows:

1. 18 martyrs killed

2. 35 wounded

3. 9 persons missing in action from the border forces and civil defence.

In addition, the Iraqi aggressor launched a Scud missile on Sunday 19 Rajab A.H. 1411 (3 February A.D. 1991) against Riyadh; it was intercepted and partially destroyed, and other parts fell on a residential area, causing light injuries to 29 persons, 14 of whom were Saudis and the rest of other nationalities. These figures include 3 Saudi children and 4 Jordanian children.

Material damage

Material damage included the destruction of some buildings and facilities in the town of Al-Khafji as a result of the Iraqi attack.

In addition, as a result of a Scud missile falling on the night of 19 Rajab A.H. 1411 (2 February A.D. 1991), on residential neighbourhoods, two houses were totally destroyed and neighbouring houses were slightly damaged.

Prisoners of war

An International Committee of the Red Cross team visited the prisoner-of-war facilities at Al-Nuairiya, Hafr al-Baten and Artawiya and met Iraqi prisoners of war. The competent Saudi authorities provided assistance in interviewing Iraqi prisoners of war to ensure that they were receiving proper treatment. The International Committee of the Red Cross expressed satisfaction with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's respect for its international obligations after ascertaining the arrangements that had been made for the treatment of the sick and the wounded, which were in keeping with the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War. We insisted that the Iraqi authorities should provide the same facilities to representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Baghdad, in accordance with the Geneva Convention, with respect to prisoners of war from the allied countries.

I would be grateful if you would kindly have this communication circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir SHIHABI
Permanent Representative